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MR. SPEAKER :—" How can I? (Laughter.) I shall pass on to the next question, viz., question No. 407."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Misappropriation of 39 bags of millets, 31½ bags of milo . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have passed on to the next question. How can the Minister proceed answering." (Laughter.)

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" I have also put my next question, Sir." (Laughter.)

Grant of house-rent allowance to Government employees occupying Government quarters.

* 407 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation has been received by the Government from Government servants against the revised rules regarding the grant of house-rent allowance to Government employees occupying Government quarters; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government propose to take on the representation?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes. A representation from the Todhunter Nagar Residents' Association and a few representations from individual Government servants were received by the Government.

" (*b*) The Government, after careful examination of the various requests contained in the representations, have decided that there is no reason to re-consider the orders already passed in the matter as no individual will pay more than 10 per cent of his emolument excluding the House Rent Allowance he receives."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" ஸார், நான் குறிப்பிட்டிருப்பது டாட்ஹண்டர் நகர் காலனியைப்பற்றி அல்ல. கவர்ன்மெண்ட் எஸ்டேட்டில் இருக்கக்கூடிய சர்க்கார் வீடுகளில் குடியிருக்கும் சர்க்கார் சிப்பந்திகளுக்கு வீட்டு வாடகை, சர்க்காரால் கொடுக்கப்படும் அலவன்ஸைவிட அதிகமாக வசூலிக்கப்படுகிறது. இது சம்பந்தமாக லெஜிஸ்லேசர் செக்ரடேரியட்டில் இருக்கக்கூடிய கீழ் தர சிப்பந்திகள்கூட காரியதரிசியிடம் முறையிட்டுக் கொண்டிருப்பதை ஒரு சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் நான் கவனித்துக் கொண்டிருந்தேன். இரண்டு மாதங்களுக்கு முன்னதாக போடப்பட்ட உத்திரவைப்பற்றிதான் நான் கேட்க விரும்பியிருப்பது. அதைப்பற்றி சர்க்காருக்கு முறையிடப் பட்டதா ? அதன்மீது என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது ?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The question begins like this : ' Whether any representation has been received by Government from Government servants against the revised rules regarding the grant of . . .'

" Naturally we thought that it refers to the Government servants' quarters in Todhunter Nagar. We have revised those rules only recently. If the hon. Member were to say

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now that his question refers to quarters in Government Estate, let him put a separate question specifically and I shall certainly give the answer."

Sale of steamer ' V. O. Chidambaram '.

*408 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) where is the steamer ' V. O. Chidambaram ' now lying;

(*b*) whether it is in working condition;

(*c*) whether the Government have any financial interest in the said steamer; and if so, to what extent; and

(*d*) whether the Government have any proposal to sell it in auction?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) The vessel has already been sold to a firm in Bombay.

" (*b*) Does not arise.

" (*c*) Yes, Sir. The Government had, on the security of the steamer and other unencumbered assets of the company, given a loan of Rs. 5,33,500 to the Swadeshi Steamship Company, Limited, Tuticorin, the then owners of the vessel, to be repaid in seven annual equated instalments of Rs. 76,215 each, besides interest, the first instalment being payable on 15th January 1953. The company have so far paid only the first instalment due on 15th January 1953 and the interest due up to 31st March 1953. After adjusting the sale-proceeds of ' V. O. Chidambaram, ' and other assets of the Company, the Company still owe the Government about 3 lakhs of rupees.

" (*d*) She has already been sold."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" For how much amount was ' V. O. Chidambaram ' sold, to whom was it sold and how was it sold? Was it sold by private negotiations or by public auction or by calling for tenders? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The highest offer received for the steamer was Rs. 1,50,000 from Jaswala & Co., Electrical Engineers, Bombay."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the said company which has purchased the steamer has changed the name of the steamer? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" What has that to do with this question? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have no interest to follow the course of the steamer, Sir." (Laughter.)